

REMARKS

Claims 1-68 are pending in the present application. None of the claims have been amended in this response. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17, 21, 23-26, 28-43, 47, 49-56, 59-65 and 68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Ozzie et al.* (US Patent No. 6,640,241).

Claims 18-20, 27, 44-46, 57 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ozzie et al.* (US Patent No. 6,640,241) in view of *Payne et al.* (US Patent No. 6,735,614).

Claims 22, 48, 58 and 67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ozzie et al.* (US Patent No. 6,640,241) in view of *Cave et al.* (US Patent 6,404,746). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants maintain that *Ozzie* is not prior art to the presently claimed invention. In the Supplementary Response dated November 20, 2006, Applicant submitted declarations and supporting evidence/exhibits of prior conception and actual reduction to practice prior to the effective date of *Ozzie* which is July 19, 1999. USPTO PAIR indicates that all of the documents related to the Supplementary Response were received. However, it has come to Applicants attention that the Supplementary Response was not before the Examiner at the time the Office Action was mailed, and thus, was not considered. A telephone conference between the Applicants representative and the Examiner on January 17, 2007, and a subsequent follow-up conversation confirmed this fact.

With this Response, Applicants respectfully request formal entry and consideration of the Supplementary Response and all related documents, declarations and exhibits. Should there be any remaining issues regarding the Supplementary Response, Applicants kindly request the Examiner contact the undersigned to reach a speedy resolution.

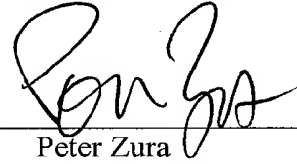
In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-68 are allowable over the prior art. Applicant also requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should there be any other charges regarding this application, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account 02-1818 for any insufficiency of payment.

Application No.: 09/881,411
Response to Office Action dated November 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Zura", is written over a horizontal line.

Peter Zura

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Dated: January 25, 2006